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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,550	06/04/2001	Tony Kroeker	AMAT/2640.C1/ATD/BG	6635

32588 7590 10/07/2002

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.  
2881 SCOTT BLVD. M/S 2061  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

WERNER, FRANK E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3652	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Sho9/874550  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
8	

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents.

(See Attachment)

Art Unit: 3652

(June 17, 2002)

1. Newly submitted claims 46-72 directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: at least base claims 46 and 56 (which received an action on the merits in the last paper #4) were directed to a pod loader, a mini-environment without a wafer cassette, a robot, at least one load lock chamber and at least one process chamber sub-combination while at least newly presented base claims 46, 56, 65, 71 & 72 are directed to a different sub-combination eliminating the pod loader, but including for the first time the min-environment being coupled to a wafer cassette along with the existing recitation of at least one load lock chamber and the existing recitation of at least one process chamber. Accordingly, a further examination of at least these newly presented base claims 46, 56, 65, 71 and 72 would involve further consideration and/or search of the noted claims ~~thereby~~ imposing a burden on the Office.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 46-72<sup>are</sup> withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

2. The drawing correction of 6/17/02 has been approved.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. E. Werner whose telephone number is (703) 308-1140. The examiner can normally be reached on Wednesday to Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis, can be reached on (703) 308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7687.

Art Unit: 3652

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Werner/kl  
September 23, 2002

*Frank E. Werner*  
9/02  
FRANK E. WERNER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
~~GROUP 3652~~